

## **WRAC Report June 8, 2006**

### **Overview:**

This report summarizes the **June 8, 2006** regular monthly meeting of the WRAC.

**WRAC Issues Workshops** were held during May and early June as follows:

- May 22: WRAC Recreational Issues Workshop
- June 1: WRAC/Acceler8 Issues Workshop, C-111 Spreader Canal Draft Basis of Design Report
- June 2: WRAC Issues Workshop, Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plan
- June 5: WRAC Issues Workshop, Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan

**The Lake Okeechobee Committee** met on May 31, in Clewiston. The Committee report has been posted to <http://www.my.sfwmd.gov/wrac>.

### **The June 8, 2006 WRAC Meeting agenda items included:**

- 2006 Legislative Session Update
- Water Supply Plans Status
- South Florida CERP Projects Update
- Acceler8 Report – C-111 Spreader Canal draft Basis of Design Report
- Modeling Update
- Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (“Mod Waters”) Update
- Combined Structural and Operation Plan (“CSOP”) Update
- Lake Okeechobee Committee Report
- Lake Okeechobee “WSE” Regulation Schedule Study Update

### **Results:**

- SFWMD will provide a response to letter of June 6, 2006 from environmental organizations re: C-111 Spreader Canal Accelerate Project draft Basis of Design Report and C-111 CERP Project Implementation Report.
- SFWMD staff will evaluate the possibility of site for a landfill in southwestern Dade County.
- **Future WRAC agenda items:**
  - Status of Review of Environmental Resource Permitting requirements by SFWMD and Florida Department of Environmental Protection
  - Status of Minimum Flows and Levels for Florida and Biscayne Bays and Reservations of Water for Protection of Natural Systems
- **Discussion:**
  - **Water supply plans:**
    - Collier County letter (June 1) to SFWMD: District needs to allow plans to include development of both alternative and

conventional freshwater sources. SFWMD will continue dialogue with Collier County. Comment that Collier County needs to incorporate alternative water supply sources because there has not been enough water for the environment.

- Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) has been working on a 10-year water facilities plan – will Florida DCA prohibit Local Government Comprehensive Plan amendments in the interim period? DCA will have to answer. WASA will work with SFWMD on water use demand projection numbers.
- Use of per capita consumption numbers in plans: high numbers are red flags in plan review process. SFWMD works with utilities to find ways to bring numbers down through conservation, reuse, etc.
- SFWMD needs to encourage multi-jurisdictional entities for water supply development as suggested in SB 444. Response: SFWMD will not make those decisions for local governments and the private sector but will provide assistance.
- Status of reservations of water for natural systems protection? Process is moving along.

○ **C-111 Project:**

- Urge consideration of comments from WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop on project. Loveland slough Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) is very important. Response: proposing approach other than STA because cost/benefits not there and transmissivities are very high in that area. Water would not stay long enough for effective treatment.
- Comment about US 1 bridge.
- Comments about concerns with draft C-111 Spreader Canal Basis of Design Report as set forth in June 6 letter from environmental groups to SFWMD.
- Response: Intent is to make C-111 Spreader Canal Accelerate project consistent with CERP C-111 project. Accelerate project has budget of \$40 million. Staff recommended alternative is \$41 million. Any additional features will require more funding. Need is to move forward with the things that can be done to improve conditions in Florida and Biscayne Bays.
- C-111 Spreader Canal project will have positive environmental benefits for fish and wildlife and will improve water quality in Loveland Slough.

- The draft BODR does not specify and readers cannot determine full extent of project because the C-111 CERP Project Implementation Report is not completed.
  - Response: Can't sheetflow 1,900 cfs through existing system without causing downstream flooding. Need to ultimately plug/backfill the C-111 canal. Need assistance obtaining additional funding for the CERP project. SFWMD cannot do a project that would potentially increase flooding of private lands.
  - C-111 project not a "video game". It has gone from "analysis to paralysis" and it is vital that the project get started. It needs a deadline for completion.
  - Process is frustrating because each time a positive step is taken, objections are raised. Need help with obtaining more funding (Biscayne Bay could use \$10 million in additional funding). Need to work together to move forward.
  - Environmental community needs to see whole plan.
  - Corps of Engineers indicated nothing in the C-111 Spreader Canal draft BODR is inconsistent with direction being taken in drafting the C-111 CERP Project Implementation Report.
  - Everglades National Park Superintendent stated the project would have positive benefits to Taylor Slough. A surge area could be located in the Frog Pond but that would require \$20 million. Don't have that now. Need to move forward.
- **Modeling:**
    - Development of the Regional Systems Model is going too slowly.
    - When completed it will be used to help evaluate CERP and Accelerate projects.
    - Are modeling tools available to assess flow needs for restoration of river systems (e.g. Loxahatchee)? Response: Can use to compare relative values and inform decision making about what restoration objectives should be.
    - Need to be careful about expectations for use of modeling tools. Cannot be used for everything. Can be used to look at comparisons using hydrologic data. Can look at impacts on marshes, flood control, etc.
- **Public Comment:**
    - Calibrating the Regional Systems Model?
    - Duck hunting on STA-2 this season. Appears staff not keeping with intent of SFWMD Recreation and Public Use policy. Response: SFWMD is fully implementing the Recreation and Public Use Policy. Staff has concerns about possible interference with

construction schedule for modifications to STA-2. Sportsmen can present request to Governing Board.

- **Combined Structural and Operational Plan (CSOP)** - there will be a full presentation at July WRAC meeting. Draft Environmental Impact Statement expected to be ready in July/August '06 timeframe.
- **Lake Okeechobee Committee Report:** Summarized. Report was handed out and is posted on SFWMD website.
- **Lake Okeechobee "WSE" Regulation Schedule Update:** Corps of Engineers is reworking the schedule for the selection of a "Tentatively Selected Plan", primarily based on concerns about integrity of the Hoover Dike and the need to reduce the "maximum release trigger" from 18.25' to 17.25'. Additional modeling will be done. Schedule is one month behind but Corps is committed to putting an interim schedule (2007-2010) in place by January 2007. New EIS for 2010 schedule will begin in 2007.
  - Public can call in to hear Lake Okeechobee Project Delivery Team discussions on Tuesday, June 13 at 2:00 p.m. Number is (904)232-1114.
- **Future Meetings:**
  - **June 12:** WRAC Issues Workshop – Water Supply Policy Implications of revised Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule, B-1 Auditorium, SFWMD, West Palm Beach, FL
  - **June 19:** WRAC Lake Okeechobee Technical Sub-Committee Conference Call, Governing Board Chambers, SFWMD
  - **June 21:** WRAC Issues Workshop – Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan, SFRPC, Hollywood, FL 9:30-11:30
  - **June 22:** WRAC/Acceler8 Issues Workshop – C-43 Test Cells, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Place: To Be Determined
  - **June 22:** WRAC Issues Workshop: Upper East Coast Water Supply Plan, Stuart City Hall, Stuart, FL
  - **June 26:** WRAC Issues Workshop: Lower West Cost Water Supply Plan, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Rookery Bay Learning Center, 300 Tower Rd., Naples, FL
  - **June 27:** WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee Field Trip, St. Lucie Estuary and tour of C-44 Test Cells, places and times TBD
  - **June 28:** WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Indian River Community College, Wolf Technology Center Auditorium, Salerno Rd., Stuart, FL
  - **June 29:** WRAC Issues Workshop, Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plan, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Osceola County Ag. Center, 1901 Irlo Bronson Highway, Kissimmee, FL

- **July 5:** WRAC Issues Workshop, Water Supply Policy/Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule, B-1 Auditorium, SFWMD, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., West Palm Beach, FL
- **July 6:** WRAC Meeting, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., B-1 Auditorium, SFWMD, West Palm Beach, FL